

**Headquarters  
Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth  
415 Sherman Avenue, Unit 1  
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2020**



**STRATCOM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

(913) 684 – 2020 Strategic Communication Office

(913) 684 – 8513 FAX

**Wounded Warriors Begin New Chapter**

**Lawrence, Kansas** – In February 2008, no one could have expected the achievement witnessed at the University of Kansas on May 15, 2010. There, six Army Wounded Warriors were awarded their hoods for having completed their master's programs. These men, from various backgrounds and from hometowns far from Lawrence, showed family, friends and the Army, they were still ready to serve. These Soldiers walked across the stage with the majority in attendance not knowing of their injuries, sacrifices and struggle to return to the Army, still willing and able to contribute to the overall mission.

Two years have passed since the ceremony where then Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren and then Chancellor Robert Hemenway, announced a partnership program that would allow Wounded Warriors to work on master's programs at KU and then return to the Army. Saturday's celebration seemed like a longtime from the blizzard that accompanied the announced two years earlier.

Capt. Gates Brown	M.A. History
Capt. (ret.) Wes Fine	M.A. International Studies
Capt. (ret.) David Holden	M.A. History
Capt. Tim Hornik	M.S.W. Social Welfare
CW3 (ret.) Ari Jean-Baptiste	M.A. Political Science
Sgt. (ret.) Rob Laurent	M.S.B. Supply Chain Management

Those who spoke to the gathering reminisced about using the Kansas can-do attitude, a Big 12 connection and an educator's background to discuss the program with Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, who had been the President of Texas A&M. Apparently 15 minutes into the discussion Gates said the group, "Make it a good program." He would have been proud to have seen the results of his decision.

Army LtGen (retired) Robert Arter, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, congratulated the graduates and wished them success in their future endeavors. He

also highlighted the importance of the program for Wounded Warriors, but also for those Soldiers currently serving. "The program shows the Army takes care of its people," said Arter.

Army Wounded Warrior Advocate, James Merrill, who works out of the Kansas City Veterans Administration, is responsible for assisting Army Wounded Warriors in a 100 mile radius from his location. He has come to know these unique student warriors and commented on their achievements and on the importance of the program. He said the Wounded Warriors were an inspiration to him and made him want to come to work every day.

The day could not have ended without showcasing recent additions to the families. Capt Gates Brown and Capt Tim Hornik thought getting their hoods was nice, but having daughters added to their lives was the best gift of all.